

REPLACEMENT DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are replacement drawings for Figures 1 and 2 without any markings. The changes to the drawings are explained below, in the "REMARKS" section. All of the drawings on the replacement sheets, as originally filed, are provided herein. The header of each revised drawing sheet includes the following information: (i) "Replacement Sheet", (ii) Title of Invention, (iii) Inventor Name, and (iv) Application Serial Number. The Examiner is requested to provide an indication of such consideration in the next Office Action.

ATTACHMENTS: Replacement Sheet for Figure 1
Replacement Sheet for Figure 2

REMARKS

Preliminary Comments

The Office Action of March 25, 2005 has been received and reviewed. In response to the Office Action, the Applicants cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-16. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1 and 3-16 will be active in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments, which are supported by the at least Figures 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5a,5b, 6a and 6b, and accompanying description in the specification. Accordingly, entry of these amendments into the record is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Figures 1 and 2 were objected to as requiring the addition of the legend "Prior Art". To obviate this objection, the Applicants enclose Replacement Sheets for Figures 1 and 2, each of which has been amended to include the legend "Prior Art" as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter is added by these Replacement Sheets, and their consideration and entry into the record is respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Abstract was objected to as incorrectly including multiple paragraphs. To obviate this objection, the Applicants enclose a Replacement Abstract Sheet. No new matter is added by this Replacement Abstract Sheet, and its consideration and entry into the record is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending objections and rejections in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the indication at paragraph 11 of the Office Action that claims 2-9 and 12 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent

claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, independent claim 10 has been amended to include similar features. Accordingly, the Applicants believe that these base claims as amended are now allowable.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 1, 10-11, and 13-16 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9, 11, 13-14, and 19-20 of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2004/0207583 ('583 Pub). Claim 1 was further provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 and 9 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0207582. These rejections are moot in view of the amendments made to claims 1, 10-11, and 13-16. Accordingly, withdrawal of these provisional rejections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

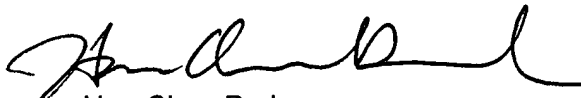
Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,529,213 to Kimura, *et al.* ("Kimura"). Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,788,281 to Ando, *et al.* These rejections are moot in view of the amendment made to claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants submit that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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